



Testimony of Connecticut Fund for the Environment Before the Commerce Committee

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STRONGLY SUPPORTING House Bill 5435 AAC THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MAJORITY LEADERS' JOB GROWTH ROUNDTABLE

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Connecticut Fund for the Environment ("CFE") is a non-profit environmental organization with over 6,500 members statewide. For thirty years, CFE has used law, science and education protect and preserve Connecticut's natural resources.

Connecticut Fund for the Environment **STRONGLY SUPPORTS House Bill 5435** that implements many of the recommendations of the Majority Leaders' Job Growth Round Table to support and incentivize jobs in Connecticut including measures establishing pre-seed funding and supporting angel investors.

We commend Majority Leaders Merrill and Looney, Chairmen Berger and LeBeau and members of this committee for seriously addressing the issue of job growth this session. The Majority Leaders' Job Growth Round Table included participation by a number of stakeholders and provided extensive recommendations for putting Connecticut residents back to work and jump starting Connecticut's economy through clean energy and green economy jobs. This particular bill focuses on many of the Report's recommendations regarding innovation and entrepreneurship.

With unemployment at 8.5% in Connecticut, priority number one is jobs -- and in particular, good jobs that are relevant to today's economy. CT Fund for the Environment is part of the Green Jobs Coalition that is a broad coalition of stakeholders from clean energy businesses, business representatives and others. The coalition strongly supports the Majority Leader's Roundtable Report and these measures implementing it.

In addition to the measures promoted in this bill, there were recommendations that the state increase its investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency, clean water, transit, sustainable forestry and workforce training. These measures are contained in other bills that are being raised by other committees.

We hope that the legislature will act this year to pass most if not all of the recommendations of the Majority Leaders' Report. Some of the job benefits that we believe would accrue from these measures are listed below.

Energy Efficiency and Renewables

Job and Economic Benefit: Every million dollars invested in energy efficiency programs creates an average of 41 jobs for electric, 45 for natural gas and 48 for oil and respectively contributes \$5.70, \$7.00 and \$7.10 to the state Gross State Product for every dollar invested. Using new program money in a way that attracts renewable energy technology manufacturers to the state would provide additional long-term benefits.

Clean Land and Water Investments

Job and Economic Benefit: Every million dollars invested in upgrading water treatment infrastructure creates at least 10 new, direct, jobs. Additionally, investments in lower cost alternatives, like green-infrastructure and LID stormwater management strategies, have the potential to grow a new industry of landscape architects, stormwater engineers, and infrastructure developers here in Connecticut. Not only do both types of investment create jobs, they support local businesses and tourism by providing the clean water needed to open beaches and shellfish beds. Help retain 20,000 agricultural jobs, generate more than 300 new forestry-related jobs and create additional jobs in habitat restoration and brownfield remediation.

Transportation

Job and Economic Benefit: Every million dollars invested in mass transportation creates 35 jobs and saves workers time and money. The bulk of the jobs would be construction initially, followed with continued employment for operators, mechanics, administrative staff and new jobs created by ancillary services, etc.

Workforce Development

Job and Economic Benefit: Having workers with skills that match the in-demand jobs will ensure that the job benefits of the programs above are fully realized.

We ask the legislature and Governor to pass a meaningful bill this year to position CT to compete in the green economy for today and the future.

For the above reasons, we **STRONGLY SUPPORT House Bill 5435** and ask the legislature to implement these and all the measures in the Majority Leaders' Roundtable Report to put people to work, grow the economy and keep Connecticut a world class place to live and conduct business.